

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 1, 2005, Applicant amends his application and requests reconsideration. In this Amendment no claims are cancelled and new claims 8-12 are added.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1 and 7 were allowed. Upon review of claim 1 it appeared that there were some errors in the claim. As described in the patent application, the N type epitaxial region encompasses the regions shown in Figure 2 that are numbered 53a, 53b, and 53c. Obviously, the epitaxial region or layer is grown on all of the semiconductor substrate and, subsequently, the various regions illustrated in Figure 2 are produced by various known semiconductor device processing techniques. Claim 1 has been amended to eliminate the reference to first and second N type epitaxial regions to be consistent with the disclosure of the patent application referring to a single such region. Likewise, the passage concerning the first P type buried layer, corresponding to the two regions 54a and 54b in the embodiment of Figure 2 of the patent application, has been clarified. Clearly those regions, although shown separately in the cross-sectional view of Figure 2, may be a single region having an annular shape in plan view. Those regions isolate the illustrated device from similar semiconductor devices or elements on the same substrate. Finally, reference to a third electrode is eliminated as unnecessary in the final paragraph of claim 1.

In making the changes to the claims in consideration of the Examiner's comments, particularly with respect to the dependent claims, it is noted that the language of the Official Action follows the originally filed claims, not the language of claims in the Preliminary Amendment. Amendments made here are based upon the Preliminary Amendment since the claims according to the Preliminary Amendment appear in the image file wrapper. Those claims actually precede in position in the image file wrapper the claims of the original patent application although both of the two sets of claims appearing in the image file wrapper have the same filing date.

Claim 1 clearly pertains to the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figure 2 and is contrasted with the embodiment of Figure 3 of the patent application with regard to the grounding of certain elements of the semiconductor device. The Examiner expressed confusion with regard to claim 2 since it appeared that the semiconductor device according to that claim included an electrical connection inconsistent with the electrical connection of claim 1. In order to avoid further confusion, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form with the elimination of any part of the parent claim 1 that might be inconsistent with examined claim 2. Claim 2 encompasses the embodiment of Figure 4.

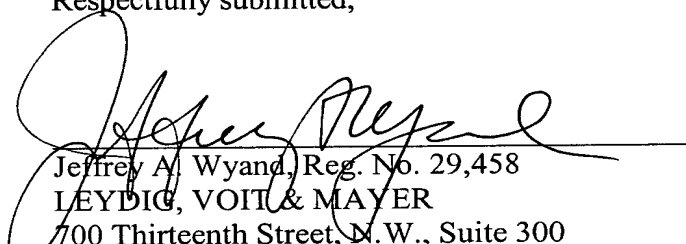
In re Appln. of Takahiro YASHITA
Application No. 10/687,912

The Examiner expressed confusion concerning the language of claims 3-6. Very careful attention has been given to those dependent claims. It appears that part of the confusion arose from the language of the original claims 3-6, not the claims presented in the Preliminary Amendment. In order to eliminate further confusion, further minor amendments are made, not only to conform to the amendment of claim 1, but also to clarify the claims.

Newly added claims 8-12 are derived from original claims 3-7 but depend from claim 2, the claim newly written in independent form.

Since the foregoing Amendment places all claims in form for allowance, favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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